

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 11, 14, 19, 25-32 and ADD new claim 33 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An event pricing system, comprising:
at least one computer having:
a continuously running event creation process determining whether a system initiated and created non-usage event independent of user initiated events is due to be created and creating the non-usage event; and
a continuously running pricing process pricing the system-created non-usage events and non-system-created events as they become available to the system.
2. (ORIGINAL) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein all events are priced as they become available to the system.
3. (ORIGINAL) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein all system-created events are created at any time based on a flexible schedule independent of a billing process.
4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system as recited in claim 3, wherein system initiated and created events for a customer may be created in one of less frequently than the customer is billed, as frequently as the customer is billed and more frequently than the customer is billed.
5. (ORIGINAL) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein summary events are created and maintained in real-time as events are priced.
6. (ORIGINAL) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein all events are available for contribution to summary records for discounting and consolidation.

7. (ORIGINAL) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein charges for all events that are relevant to a billing period are calculated and available in the system at the earliest practical time.

8. (ORIGINAL) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein processing for calculating charges to be billed in a current billing period is outside the billing process.

9. (ORIGINAL) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein charges for all unbilled events are ready for the billing process and ready for display on-demand.

10. (ORIGINAL) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said pricing process performs real-time recalculation of a charge for any unbilled event when information in the system which impact the charge has changed.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer implemented event pricing process, comprising:

determining, by a computer, whether a system initiated and created non-usage event independent of user initiated events is priceable; and
pricing, by the computer, the non-usage event responsive to the determining.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process as recited in claim 11, wherein priceable events are priced immediately.

13. (ORIGINAL) A process as recited in claim 11, wherein all charge events are priced in real-time.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED). A computer implemented event pricing process, comprising:

determining, by a computer, whether an event is priceable; and
pricing, by the computer, the event responsive to the determining, wherein all available system initiated and created non-usage events independent of user initiated events for a current billing period are priced at a first opportunity after a prior billing period ends.

15. (ORIGINAL) A process as recited in claim 11, wherein a usage event is priced at a

time that the usage occurs.

16. (ORIGINAL) A process as recited in claim 11, wherein a recurring charge is calculated after an end of a prior billing period and before the billing date for the recurring charge.

17. (ORIGINAL) A process as recited in claim 11, wherein a minimum or a maximum charge is calculated and captured in a summary after an end of a prior billing period and before the billing date for the recurring charge.

18. (ORIGINAL) A process as recited in claim 11, wherein charges for summary events are calculated on-demand at a time of charge display.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer implemented event pricing process, comprising:

determining, by a computer, whether a system initiated and created non-usage event independent of user initiated events is due to be created; and

creating, by the computer, the non-usage event responsive to the determining; and pricing, by the computer, the non-usage event responsive to the creating.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process as recited in claim 19, wherein system initiated and created events are created independent of other processes.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process as recited in claim 19, wherein system initiated and created events are created according to a schedule in the system.

22. (ORIGINAL) A process as recited in claim 21, wherein said schedule is created and maintained by the system based on subscription information available in the system.

23. (ORIGINAL) A process as recited in claim 19, wherein a recurring event is created after an end of a prior billing period and before the billing date for the recurring charge.

24. (ORIGINAL) A process as recited in claim 19, wherein minimum and maximum charge summary events are created after an end of a prior billing period and before the billing

date for the recurring charge.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An event pricing system, comprising:

a computer having:

a continuously running event creation process determining whether a system initiated and created non-usage event independent of user initiated events has become current; and

a continuously running pricing process pricing the system-created non-usage events and non-system-created events as they become available to the system, and creating and maintaining summary events in real-time as events are priced.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An event pricing system, comprising:

a computer having:

a continuously running event creation process determining whether a system initiated and created non-usage event independent of user initiated events is due to be created and creating system-created non-usage events at any time based on a flexible schedule; and

a continuously running pricing process, independent of a billing process, pricing of the system-created, non-usage and non-system-created events as ready for the billing process and for display as they become available to the system with all events priced as they become available to the system and creating summary events as events are being priced and performing real-time recalculation of a charge for any unbilled event when information in the system which impacts charge has changed.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An event pricing apparatus, comprising:

a source of system initiated and created non-usage events independent of user initiated events; and

a processor pricing the non-usage events when the events are priceable.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable storage medium including an event pricing process controlling a computer and having a continuously running event creation process determining whether a system initiated and created non-usage event independent of user initiated events is due to be created and a continuously running pricing process pricing the system-created non usage events and non-system-created events as they become available to the system.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system providing pricing information for on-demand billing for events, comprising:

a message queue receiving events including system initiated and created non-usage events and usage events; and

a processor performing a pricing process where non-usage and usage events independent of user initiated events are continuously delivered to the pricing process via the message queue and priced as they become available.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A continuous pricing process for an event-driven system, comprising;

storing events in a message queue, the events being system initiated and created non-usage events, usage events, one time events, and summary events;

delivering the events in the message queue to a pricing process as they become available, the delivered events including events independent of user initiated events; and pricing the events.

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An event pricing system, comprising:

at least one computer having:

a continuously running event creation process determining whether a system initiated and created non-usage event independent of user initiated events is due to be created and creating the non-usage event when due;

a continuously running pricing process pricing the system-created non-usage events and non-system-created events including usage events as they become available to the system producing priced events; and

an intermittently running billing process running responsive bill cycles and customer on demand billing information requests and producing a bill using the priced events.

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An event pricing process using a computer, comprising: receiving system initiated and created non-usage events independent of user initiated events; and

pricing, by the computer, the system initiated and created non-usage events as soon as the events are received.

33. (NEW) A method for a continuous real-time calculation of a bill using a computer,

comprising:

executing the real-time calculation of the bill each time an event independent of a user's initiation occurs, the processing of the real-time calculation of the bill being independent of a billing process; and

continuously reflecting the event independent of the user's initiation on the bill and maintaining a summary total for the bill, where the bill including the event independent of the user's initiation is displayed to the user on-demand and/or is provided to the user in accordance with the billing process.